REMARKS

Preliminary to examination of this application please cancel Claims 31-45 without prejudice and add new Claims 46-77. Now in the application are Claims 46-77, of which Claims 46, 58, and 70 are independent. Cancellation of Claims 31-45 should in no way be construed to be in acquiescence to any other rejections. The cancellations of and/or amendments to the claims are being made to more fully appreciate the inventive subject matter of the above identified application. Applicant reserves the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the instant or subsequent patent application. No new matter is added and no new issues are raised by these amendments. Accordingly, consideration of the proposed amendments requires no further search. The following comments address all previously stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action provisionally rejected Claims 31-45 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of now issued U.S. Patent Number 6,131,112 of Lewis et al. in view of Published International Application WO 95/08794 and U.S. Patent Number 5,473,608 of Gagne et al. Applicant respectfully notes this rejection and elects to defer response until a determination of allowable subject matter in the claimed invention occurs.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 31-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Published International Application WO 95/08794 (hereinafter "Gilbert") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,131,112 of Lewis et al. (hereinafter "Lewis"). Applicants consider the rejection of Claims 31-45 moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 31-45 without prejudice by this amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 31-45 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

New Claims 46-77

The present amendment adds new Claims 46-77 which Applicants consider allowable over the prior art of record.

New Claim 46 is directed to a method for sharing information between a first management system and a second management system. The method includes steps of receiving a message from the first management system and determining whether the message relates to an entity that is managed by the second management system. When the message relates to an entity that is managed by the second management system, the message is formatted into a format compatible with the second management system. The method includes a step of taking action to provide the second management system with the message in the format compatible with the second management system. Claims 47-60 depend from Claim 46.

New Claim 61 is directed to an apparatus for sharing information between a first management system and a second management system. The apparatus includes a first means for receiving a message from the first management system and a second means for determining whether the message relates to an entity that is managed by the second management system. A third means of the apparatus formats the message in a format compatible with the second management system when the message relates to an entity that is managed by the second management system. A fourth means of the apparatus takes action to provide the second management system with the message in the format compatible with the second management system. Claims 62-72 depend from Claim 61.

New Claim 73 is directed to a system for providing an interface between a first management system and a second management system. The system includes a correlator. The correlator has an input that receives a message from the first management system and an output that provides a correlated message when the message is related to an entity managed by the second management system. The system includes a message formatter coupled to the correlator. The message formatter has an input that receives the correlated message and an output that provides a formatted message in a format that is compatible with the second management system. The system also includes an interface module coupled to the correlator and the second management system. The interface module takes a selected action should the output of the correlator provide a correlated message. Claims 74-77 depend from Claim 73.

Description of Exemplary Embodiment of the Invention

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention is described on pages 10-13 of the present application.

An exemplary embodiment of the invention allows a network management platform 40 and a system management platform 50 to share information so that a network administrator, system administrator, or any other user can view all associated data from either one of the platforms 40, 50. Additionally, because each platform 40, 50 has access to its own data as well as the other platform's data, the quality of information provided to an administrator or external software application is improved.

In particular, the network management platform (NMP) 40 includes an NMP graphical user interface (GUI) 41, which also may be referred to as a "client" in client-server technology. The NMP also includes an NMP server 42. The NMP 40 also includes interface 43 which couples to network devices and entities that are managed or monitored by the NMP 40. The system management platform (SMP) 50 includes an SMP graphical user interface 51, also referred to as a "client" as well as an SMP server 52, and an interface 53 couples to systems managed by the SMP 50.

As shown in Fig. 4, the NMP client 41 receives SMP views 55 from the SMP client 51, and the SMP client 51 receives NMP views 45 from the NMP client 41. Accordingly, the NMP 40 can provide both the NMP and SMP views 48, and the SMP 50 can provide both the SMP and NMP views 58. For example, the SMP 50 can display an NMP view such as that depicted in Fig. 3.

Additionally, the NMP server 42 receives SMP events and alarms 56 from the SMP server 52 receives NMP events and alarms 46 from the NMP server 42. Each server 42, 52, can analyze this additional data and correlate it as required to provide analysis results that may not have been possible with each platform's respective data alone. For example, as a result of the reception and analysis of the SMP event and alarm data 56, the NMP server 42 may provide more detailed analysis data to the NMP client 41, so that the NMP 40 can provide the results of SMP and NMP events and alarms 49 to an administrator or external software application. Similarly, as a result of the reception and analysis of the NMP event and alarm data 46, the SMP server 52 may provide more detailed analysis data to the SMP client 51, so that the SMP 50 can provide the results of NMP and SMP events and alarms 59.

The events and alarms 49, 59 represent information for an administrator that previously was not available. For example, the SMP 50 can detect that a computer from the network 10 is not operating efficiently, e.g. processing jobs on the computer using

data from a storage device are not being completed. The SMP 50 may not have any more information relating to the diagnosis of such a situation. However, the NMP 40 may be aware that a router in the communication path between the computer and the storage device has failed. If the NMP 40 provides this information to the SMP 50, then the SMP 50 will have the information necessary to inform an administrator that the computer is operating correctly, and that it is a router failure causing the processing jobs on the computer to go uncompleted. Without the integration of an SMP 40 and an NMP 50, such a correlation of data is not communicated to the administrator, and the administrator may have used significant time and resources to solve a non-existent problem within the computer itself.

Similarly, the NMP 40 can detect that a network entity is unreachable by other entities on the network 10, but may have no further information regarding this performance degradation. As a result, the NMP can cause alarms to be sent to an administrator and can also invoke fault isolation of the network 10. However, the SMP 50 may have information that the unreachable network entity has crashed (i.e., stopped operating) due to a corrupted disk partition, and may provide this information to the NMP 40. As a result of receiving this information, the NMP 40 will probably not send a network alarm to the administrator, and there is no need to fault isolate the network, because there is nothing wrong with the network itself. Instead, both the NMP 40 and the SMP 50 may provide accurate data, i.e. that a disk partition and not a network failure has caused an entity to be unreachable.

Prior Art of Record

Gilbert referred to in the Office Action fails to disclose each and every element recited in new Claims 46-77 and further teaches away from the exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Gilbert discloses two management systems that <u>do not communicate</u> with each other. Gilbert discloses that a device managed by two management system has a common intermediary relational database having a normalized view of the parameters of the device. Messages from a management system to the device are translated into the database format by means of proprietary agents, one for each management system. Gilbert is mainly concerned with requests and responses rather than handling unsolicited events. Even if a skilled person would adapt the method of Gilbert

to treat such events, then the way suggested by Gilbert would be to translate these events to the database format rather than to the format of the other management system.

Gagne discloses sending distribution units (i.e. packets) from one communication manager to another. When sending distribution units, an origin end user transfers the distribution unit to an origin communications manager along with a priority designation for the distribution unit and an indication of the destination end user that is to receive the distribution unit. For each distribution unit, the communications manager determines an adjacent communications manager along a communication path within the heterogeneous network from the origin end user to the destination end user. After determining the adjacent communications manager, the distribution unit is <u>configured</u> according to the conventions of a <u>network protocol</u> stack existing between the communication managers. Hence, Gagne places the data from the origin end user in a field of a frame and the frame is transported through the network to the destination user in a selected network protocol packet or frame, for example an Ethernet frame. Accordingly, Gagne fails to disclose, teach or suggest steps of receiving a message from a first management system, determining whether the message relates to an entity that is managed by the second management system, and formatting a message in a format compatible with the second management system.

The Applicants submit that Gilbert in view of Gagne fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every limitation in Applicants new claim structure, as recited in new Claims 46-77. For this reason, Claims 46-77 are considered allowable over the cited Gilbert reference and the cited Gagne reference either alone or in combination.
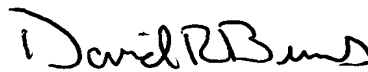
The Applicants respectfully contend that a review of the references made of record, but not relied upon, fail to disclose, teach or suggest when a message relates to an entity that is managed by the other management system, formatting the message in a format compatible with the other management system. Accordingly, for this reason, new Claims 46-77 are considered allowable over the references made of record, but not relied upon.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant's contend that Claims 46-77 are patentable and in condition for allowance without the need for an additional search by the Examiner. If the Examiner deems that there are any remaining issues, we invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,

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